

**Fremont Conservation Commission**  
**4-11-11 Minutes**



**Fremont Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of April 11, 2011**  
Approved May 2, 2011

Present: Chairman Janice O'Brien, Members, Bill Knee, and Alternate/Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

Chrm. O'Brien opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

**MINUTES**

Mbr. Knee motioned to accept the minutes of the March 7, 2011 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Chrm. O'Brien with unanimous favorable vote.

**PSNH/NORTHEAST UTILITIES GRANT**

Mrs. Bolduc reported that Dennis Howland has written an "Environmental Community Grant Application" to Northeast Utilities (PSNH). In the past this grant has been a semi-annual \$1,000 maximum request grant with an April 15<sup>th</sup> submittal date for the Spring issue. Upon submittal of the application Mrs. Bolduc received information from Northeast Utilities Environmental Records Technician Pat Baxa, that beginning this year the Environmental Community Grant Program is an annual event with a deadline of September 15<sup>th</sup> and the grant maximum request amount has been increased to \$1,500. Ms. Baxa suggested resubmitting the grant application in a timely manner for the September 15, 2011 deadline, preferably in early August.

This application would be to fund signage for Oak Ridge. The Members discussed Mr. Howland's March 22, 2011 e-mail message:

- *The wet section on the Forest Loop can be easily by-passed. Just south of the wet area, Forest and Homestead are only about 50 yards apart, with a clear opening between the two. Almost NO work is required to create this by-pass. The first section of Homestead can be used to access Forest during the rainy season. This is also much less invasive on the wet areas on the Forest Loop.*
- *Oak Ridge has almost no signage, other than the southern kiosk and a few arrows. With the acreage and proposed trail network in the north, this is something we could certainly use.*

Mr. Howland feels the initial efforts should go to signage which identifies the land as Town Forest. His suggestions include:

*Oak Ridge*

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- *Install a Town Forest sign at all of the intersections of major trails and Tavern Road. This could be the "Town Forest Ordinance" sign which is used in a number of places, or sign which simply states*
- *"Fremont Town Forest". The "Ordinance sign would still be posted at the north parking lot on Tavern Road.*
- *Install similar signs on the trails where they cross the western boundary, leaving the Town Forest and entering private land. These locations may be better served by using the "Ordinance" sign. These signs would all be on single 4x4 PT posts. They will be tall enough to allow additional signage to be added at later date if required.*
- *Install the large Oak Ridge Town Forest sign (that we already have) in the north parking lot, in a manner similar to the other sign that is at the south parking lot.*
- *In positioning the sign in the north parking lot, leave room for another kiosk.*
- *All (or most) of the Oak Ridge proposed trail network lead to Tavern Road. We have far fewer "intersections" and most of these simply require an arrow. We can supplement these arrows with some handmade routed signs which would clarify how to get back to Tavern. We would still use single 4x4 PT posts, which could be used at a later time if we decide to "name" the trails and we want signs similar to GO. The investment in the handmade signs is small.*

### TOWN FOREST

Other suggestions from Mr. Howland's e-message were discussed as follows:

#### Oak Ridge

- *Install the large Oak Ridge Town Forest sign (just like the one at the south parking lot) in the north parking lot, in a manner similar to the other sign. In positioning the sign, we want to leave room for another kiosk.*
- *Update the trail map, having it printed with solvent inks and posted in both Kiosks.*
- *There could be temporary names for the trails, or no names at all. (suggestion = North Loop and South Loop and a connection or link between the two).*

#### Glen Oakes

- *Erect a sign at the end of the Link trail indicating the way back to the parking lot (to clarify it for anyone coming out of the Forest Loop as to where to go.*
- *Mark the new Forest bypass trail at each end with a small routed sign at each end.*
- *"End of Trail" or "Property Boundary" signs have been proposed for a number of places in Glen Oakes where the old roads leave the Town Forest. Both "End of Trail" and "Property Boundary" are stock signs from Voss. However, if we were going to create a standard "Fremont Town Forest" boundary sign, and we bought 25 of them, the cost would not be that much more, and they could be used in multiple places.*

#### Questions:

1. *Are single post signs acceptable?*
2. *Are handmade (routed) signs acceptable? (Option is to stick with preprinted metal signs but at more cost.)*
3. *What should we use for boundary or end of trail sign? Town Forest Ordinance? a custom Fremont Town Forest sign, "End of Trail" stock metal sign? other?*
4. *Forest bypass versus bog bridging?*

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Mbr. deBeer's sent an e-mail message on April 4, 2011 and requested that her suggestions be read and considered at that evenings meeting as she was not able to attend. That meeting was rescheduled to tonight and the Members reviewed Mbr. deBeer's suggestions (in *italics*) as follows:

*1. The bypass trail is a good idea, however I wouldn't give up the idea of a bog bridge, nor am I opposed to it. My opinion is to go ahead with the bypass trail and put the bog bridge on the back burner rather than reject it completely. We can evaluate if the bypass is sufficient for getting maintenance equipment in and out of Glen Oaks.*

Mbr. Knee agreed, but said it should stay on the back burner for now. Chrm. O'Brien said she would not like to see any additional trails in Glen Oaks.

*2. Careful consideration ought to be given to two post signs versus 1 post signs. Key, i.e. main signs ought to be with two posts. We have had some problems with Forest Ordinance signs being removed.*

Chrm. O'Brien and Mbr. Knee agreed. (Oak Ridge)

*3. Consider moving the sign at the junction of the Woodland and "Brentwood Machines" trails that is confusing (not on the grant list).*

Chrm. O'Brien and Mbr. Knee offered no comment.

*4. Routed wooden signs to mark the trail are acceptable. The samples look very nice.*

Chrm. O'Brien and Mbr. Knee agreed.

*5. "End of Trail" or "Leaving Town Forest custom signs with two posts would be my preference.*

Chrm. O'Brien and Mbr. Knee agreed.

*6. The signs described for Oak Ridge sound great. At some time in the near future we ought to name the trails.*

Chrm. O'Brien and Mbr. Knee offered no comment.

*7. I like the idea of a kiosk at the north end of Oak Ridge.*

Chrm. O'Brien and Mbr. Knee agreed.

## HIKE & SEEK CONTEST

April is the last month of the Hike & Seek Contest. Mr. Howland will attend the May 2, 2011 Conservation Commission meeting to help determine a winner and distribute prizes. Prize donations so far include:

- Backpack donated by the Ellis School
- Two \$10 gift certificates to Scoops Ice Cream Shop on Main Street
- Jewelry piece created by Janice O'Brien
- Maple syrup donated by Bill Knee
- \$25 donated by the Fremont Garden Club

## BIOTHON

The Members discussed the May 21, 2011 Fremont Biothon event to be held at the Glen Oaks Town Forest. Chrm. O'Brien reported that she spoke with Frank Mitchell who said that two members of Bear Paw Regional Greenways will participate. She does not know if Amanda Stone is planning to attend. Chrm. O'Brien said Greg Tillman from Epping contacted her relating that he is hoping to

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attend and that he is looking for trail maps. She reported that she e-mailed John Herman, Ellis Science teacher, about student participation, but has not heard back from him. Chrm. O'Brien said she will

contact some people who signed up at the Fall Festival to make them aware of the Biothon event. Mbr. Knee stated that Kevin Murphy, an expert at identifying birds, is considering participating.

Chrm. O'Brien said that two people from the Audubon Society will be doing a bird inventory study week of May 21, 2011. She added that Pam Hunt from Audubon indicated she had some existing data from the site and would pass it along to the Fremont Conservation Commission. Mbr. Knee said the focus for the inventory is on birds, odonata and herps.

### **TRASH DAY**

The Commission had talked about doing a "trash pick-up" day in the Oak Ridge Town Forest to pick up bulk trash items to take to the drop-off site on bulky day which is scheduled for May 21, 2011.

Chrm. O'Brien noted that the Biothon is scheduled for the same day so the trash pickup is unlikely.

### **GRANTS**

Chrm. O'Brien reported that Mbr. deBeer has been working on some grants for land acquisition including:

1. William P. Wharton Trust - \$15,000. Mbr. deBeer received an invitation to submit a full proposal for this grant in response to a pre-proposal that she previously submitted.
2. Fields Pond Foundation - \$25,000.
3. Davis Conservation Foundation – amount to be determined.

### **ERLAC**

Mbr. deBeer e-mailed the following report relative to the March 22, 2011 ERLAC meeting.

1. *Mark and Julie were on the agenda to present the results of the three town wildlife study. Julie was ill so the results will be presented at the April 26 meeting.*
2. *The EPA will be issuing a draft permit to Exeter since it is time for them to renew their discharge permit. They are requiring that the Wastewater and Sewer Treatment Plant must meet 3mg/liter or 3 parts per million nitrogen limit in the discharge. This will be required of all 18 sewage treatment plants that discharge into Great Bay as their permits come up for renewal. The new nitrogen requirement means that new treatment facilities will have to be built at a cost of \$22 to \$25 million per plant. The nitrogen level in Great Bay has increased 42% in the last five years, hence the reason for the new requirement.*
3. *The addition of the four rivers to the Rivers Management and Protection Program has passed the House and the hearing for the Senate is this week.*
4. *The upcoming NH DES cuts were discussed briefly and thought to be excessive. Mark Traeger mentioned that once these people leave, they will not come back to NH DES. The cuts appear to have been made without consideration of the consequences. The staff from the Rivers Protection and Management Program and the Lakes Management Program will be eliminated. Staff from the water testing lab, which have already been cut, will probably be eliminated.*
5. *ERLAC is planning to have a vernal pool workshop in May, a fish ladder tour in June, a kayak paddle this summer, and a fly-fishing and river clean-up this fall. Dates will be set in the near future.*

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#### **SURVEY OF LAND**

The Members received and reviewed the March 10, 2011 invoice in the amount of \$3,400 that was submitted by Surveyor Thomas Brouillette. This amount represents one-half a land survey cost as previously agreed upon.

Mbr. Knee made the motion to authorize the payment of \$3,400 to Mr. Brouillette for land survey cost to be taken from the Current Use Fund.

Motion seconded by Chrm. O'Brien with unanimous favorable vote.

#### **VENUS JOHNSON**

Map 3 Lot 054-1-7

42 Bluefish Drive

Relative to the Standard Dredge & Fill Application submitted to the NH DES Wetlands Bureau by Venus Johnson for her property located 42 Bluefish Drive (Map 3 Lot 054-1-7) to be allowed to construct a 6' addition that will impact 61 sf of a prime wetland buffer.

The Commission received a copy of revised plans and a March 14, 2011 correspondence to DES from Jason Lopez, project manager with Eric Mitchell & Associates addressing the DES review comments.

Note: On February 8, 2011 the Commission Members issued a letter to DES conveying that; 1) they still do not desire the loss of further protection through the intrusion of the 61sf of the Prime Wetland buffer; and 2) item #13 on the Standard Dredge & Fill Application needs to be corrected to read that the approval was granted by the Fremont Zoning Board of Adjustment, not the Conservation Commission. The correction has been made.

#### **TREASURERS REPORT/ACCOUNT BALANCES**

The Members received and reviewed the Treasurers reports and account balance sheets for the date ending February 28, 2011.

#### **BUDGET**

The Members received and reviewed the 2011 budget sheet.

#### **WORKSHOP**

The Commission received notice of the May 10<sup>th</sup> "2011 Drinking Water Source Protection Workshop" to be held at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH. Mbr. de Beer has related that she would like to attend this workshop.

Mbr. Knee made the motion to approve \$40.00 from the Training & Conferences line of the current budget to fund the registration fee for Mbr. deBeer to attend the 2011 DES Drinking Water Source Protection Workshop.

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Motion seconded by Chrm. O'Brien with unanimous favorable vote.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO NH HOUSE-PASSED BUDGET**

Chrm. O'Brien shared a copy of an April 1, 2011 letter relative to the Legislative Budget passed by the NH House of Representatives in March that was forwarded to her from Mbr. deBeer. This letter was sent to Senate President Peter Bragdon and described how this budget will have far-reaching negative effects on the environment and requested, in part, that *the Senate look closely at the programs targeted for elimination in the House-passed budget*. It was drafted by representatives of several organizations including SPNHF, NHACC, Appalachian Mountain Club, NH Audubon, Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust, The Natural Conservancy, CLF, TPL, Conservation NH, NH Lakes Association and NH Rivers Council.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Received: An invoice in the amount of \$100.00 for membership to the Lamprey River Watershed Association to be used to support communication efforts among the watershed towns. There was some discussion that this was an unexpected expense. The Members agreed that a letter be sent to the Lamprey River Watershed Association advising that the Commission was unaware that there were dues assessed with membership and none was included in the 2011 budget. Therefore, due to budget cuts and restraints we are fiscally unable to become a paying member of the Lamprey River Watershed Association.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2011.

Mbr. Knee made the motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm.

Motion seconded by Chrm. O'Brien with unanimous favorable vote.

Meredith Bolduc

Land Use AA/Recording Secretary